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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## Northwest Gate project nears completion

*By Roger C. Anderson*

RAPID CITY – Camp Rapid closed its front gate seven years ago as a security measure. For the same reason, the South Dakota National Guard Headquarters officially opens its new main entrance that combines a ‘new look’ with a number of security features.

Located at the intersection of West Main and St. Onge Streets, the new gate will be open for civilian vehicle and pedestrian traffic after an official ribbon-cutting ceremony to be held at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 25. Those attending the event will have to enter the camp at the South Gate.

“It’s quite an appealing and impressive project,” said Brig. Gen. Ted Johnson, director of the South Dakota National Guard’s Joint Staff at Camp Rapid. “It’s been in the planning stage for many years. We’re fortunate to have waited because of all the security, force-protection and anti-terrorism measures that are now required.”

The new \$2.4 million project is designed to improve access and upgrade security. The new entrance features a reception center, a guard house, a covered area for vehicle search and a rejection loop. A drive aisle allows vehicles to move off the busy street while waiting to enter the camp.

“We always had a front gate but we closed it seven years ago after the September 11 attacks,” said Johnson. “The old front gate presented a dangerous situation with the heavy traffic on West Main.”

One of the most important safety features of the gate’s design is the expanded line of sight intersection for motorists exiting the camp. Drivers will have an excellent sight triangle and will have an unobstructed view of all approaching traffic. Motorist will easily be able to determine whether it is safe to enter or cross the main roadway.

The entrance project began last fall and was completed by RCS Construction, of Rapid City, in August. At that time, Scull Construction, of Rapid City, began building the Reception Center, which is nearly completed.

Gate designers also focused on maintaining the camp's historic look by matching the rock walls and columns with the existing native stone walls built by the Works Progress Administration in 1938.

Since the new gate is not designed for commercial traffic, delivery vehicles will still be required to enter the camp through the South Gate on Canyon Lake Drive.

Main features of the new gate include:

- Drive aisle
- Rejection loop
- Search canopy
- Guard house
- Precast traffic control barriers
- Security fencing and sliding crash barrier gates – all fabricated locally by All Metal MFG of Rapid City
- Security card reader
- Excellent lighting and landscaping
- Reception center (2,000 sq. ft.)
- Native stone columns and rock walls

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION**, please contact Maj. Orson Ward at (605) 737-6721, cell (605) 431-8753